

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1982BUENOS00990

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

<<<<.>>>>

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00990 222001Z
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-01
MCT-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /068 W
-----244305 222003Z /53

R 221813Z FEB 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2520
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN.
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0990

CINCSO FOR INTAFF

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/22/88 (FIREDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO MARTINEZ MURDER

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0934

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WHILE THE CRIME REMAINS UNSOLVED, INTEREST HAS NOT
FLAGGED IN THE MURDER OF ANA MARIA MARTINEZ. SEVERAL
THEORIES HAVE BEEN PUT BEFORE THE PUBLIC AS TO THE MOTIVES
OF THE CRIME:

-- HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES
HAVE TABBED THE MURDER AS PART OF THE PAST PATTERN
OF DISAPPEARANCE-KILLINGS, AND POINT THE FINGER AT
SECURITY FORCES AS BEING RESPONSIBLE. THEY BELIEVE
THAT THE PROVINCIAL POLICE HID THE MURDER FOR SEVERAL
DAYS (BY NOT ALLOWING FAMILY MEMBERS TO IDENTIFY THE

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00990 222001Z

BODY OR ITS JEWELRY OR CLOTHES THE DAY IT WAS DISCOVERED);

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1982BUENOS00990

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

-- AN ANONYMOUS GOVERNMENT SOURCE TOLD THE PRESS LATE LAST WEEK THAT THE FILLING MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF LEFTISTS, PERHAPS AS PART OF A DISPUTE OVER MONEY. THIS SOURCE HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF A WOMAN IN THE ORIGINAL SEIZURE OF MARTINEZ, STATING THAT WOMEN TOOK PART IN LEFTIST GROUPS BUT NOT IN RIGHTIST ORGANIZATIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE WAS CITED AS STATING THE PROBABLY AUTHORS WERE A "PARAMILITARY GROUP" (MEANING AN ELEMENT OF THE SECURITY FORCES).

-- POLITICIANS AND PRESS SPECULATE ABOUT AND HAVE CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MURDER WAS "A POLITICAL CRIME." BY THIS THEY MEAN THAT IT WAS DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE OR EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH VARIOUS SPOKESMEN CONTINUES TO ANNOUNCE ITS INTENTION TO SOLVE THE CRIME. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN ARE ALSO TELLING THE PRESS THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THE MURDER WEAKENS THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENCY.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, THE CASE CONTINUES TO GENERATE UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC ATTENTION AND CONDEMNATION. FOR EXAMPLE, "LA NACION," A PAPER THAT IS CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT, HAS FOCUSED COVERAGE ON THE MURDER AND HARSHLY DENOUNCED IT IN ITS EDITORIAL COLUMNS, A POSITION TAKEN BY SEVERAL OTHER NEWSPAPERS. REPORTEDLY, THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY HAS CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO CLEAR UP THE CRIME.

5. COMMENT: THE SPECULATION THAT THIS CRIME MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF LEFTIST GROUPS WAS GIVEN LITTLE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00990 222001Z

CREDIBILITY HERE. THE MOST WIDELY HELD THEORY IS THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE CRIME WERE OUT TO EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT. WE, AND SOURCES WHOSE JUDGEMENT WE VALUE, DOUBT THAT THE KILLERS HAD SUCH A POLITICAL MOTIVE IN MIND -- IT STILL SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT THE KILLERS WERE OPERATING AT A LOCAL LEVEL WITHOUT BROAD POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.

6. HOWEVER, THE WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS REFLECTS ONE ELEMENT OF AGREEMENT ABOUT THE CRIME: VIRTUALLY NOBODY IN ARGENTINA BELIEVES THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HIS GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1982BUENOS00990

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

CRIME AND ARE ANYTHING ELSE THAN DEEPLY EMBARRASSED
ABOUT IT. SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED